

REMARKS

Claims 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Mohi et al., U.S. 2003/0195008.

The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 14 has now been amended to recite an operation instructing terminal, carried by an operations manager. The terminal comprises means for acquiring operation instructions from an instruction center side; a storage section for storing acquired operation instruction content; means for presenting the acquired operation instruction content to the operations manager; means for collecting information relating to operating conditions of a terminal; and means for carrying out processing to make it impossible to refer operation instruction content stored in the storage section if the collected information related to operating conditions satisfies previously set operation stop conditions or if any instruction is acquired from the instruction center.

Independent claim 15 now recites a search supporting system containing a center side device and a plurality of search supporting devices possessed by each search staff, wherein; the center side device comprises means for transmitting a search instruction to a specific search supporting terminal possessed by a search manager selected from among search staff managing a search of a person being sought; means for providing information about the sought person relating to a received search request in response to a request from the specific search supporting device. The search supporting devices comprise means for receiving a search instruction from the center side device; and means for setting the search supporting devices to be capable of requesting the center side device for information concerning the sought person when the search instruction is received.

Independent claim 16 now recites a search supporting system, comprising a transmitter carried by a sought person, a center side device and a search supporting device possessed by every search manager. The transmitter comprises means for acquiring current position information; and means for transmitting the current position information to the center side device. The search supporting device comprises means for acquiring current position information; and means for transmitting the current position information and a request for sought person information to the center side device. The center side device comprises means for holding a plurality of items of information relating to a sought person and respective security levels in a correlated manner; means for receiving current position information of a search supporting device and a request for sought person information from the search supporting device; means for calculating information on a relative positional relationship between a transmitter carried by a sought person and a search supporting device based on current position information of the search supporting device; means for determining a disclosable security level based on the relative positional relationship information; and means for providing information about sought persons up to a security level set as disclosable to a requesting search supporting device based on the determination.

Independent claim 17 now recites a search supporting system comprising a center side device, and a plurality of search supporting devices, one of each possessed by each search manager. The center side device comprises means for providing sought person information to a search manager, and at least one of the search supporting devices comprises means for acquiring sought person information from the center side device; means for storing the acquired sought person information; means for providing the

acquired sought person information to a search manger; and means for deleting the stored sought person information upon receipt of a search completion instruction input from a search manager.

Mohi et al. '008 describes a locating system that has a mobile controller unit and a rover unit, both of which have a radio positioning system and a two-way radio communication system. The controller unit can query the rover unit to send its location data so that the rover unit can be located. The system can also operate in conjunction with a network system that has an application server that performs some of the communications and calculation functions.

However, Mohi et al. '008 does not describe or suggest a center side device that provides instructions and information related to the sought person in accordance with the present invention.

With respect to amended claim 14, Mohi et al. '008 does not describe or suggest a means for acquiring operation instructions from an instruction center side and a means for presenting the acquired operation instruction content to the operations manager.

With respect to amended claim 15, Mohi et al. '008 does not describe or suggest means for receiving a search instruction from the center side device, and means for setting the search supporting devices to be capable of requesting the center side device for information concerning the sought person when the search instruction is received.

With respect to amended independent claim 16, Mohi et al '008 does not describe or suggest a search supporting system having a transmitter carried by a sought person, a center side device and a search supporting device possessed by every search manager. The transmitter includes means for acquiring current position information, and means for

transmitting the current position information to the center side device. The search supporting device includes means for acquiring current position information, and means for transmitting the current position information and a request for sought person information to the center side device.

With respect to amended independent claim 17, Mohi et al. '008 does not disclose or suggest a search supporting system having a center side device that includes means for providing sought person information to a search manager; and at least one of the search supporting devices including means for acquiring sought person information from the center side device, and means for providing the acquired sought person information to a search manager.

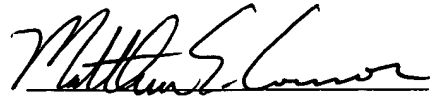
With respect to independent claim 19, Applicants contend that Mohi et al. '008 does not describe means for receiving and storing a plurality of items of information relating to sought persons from a center side together with respective security level attributes, and means for determining disclosable security levels according to the calculated relative positional relationship and providing to a search manger information, among stored information relating to sought persons, that has been determined as being disclosable.

New claims 21-23 have been added in order to further clarify and define the invention.

In view of the foregoing comments, Applicants respectfully contend that Mohi et al. '008 does not anticipate the invention as defined in claims 14-23. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims are patentable over the prior art of record.

The application is now considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew E. Connors", written over a horizontal line.

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